



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE LOCATES DANGEROUS FUGITIVE, CONFISCATES 19 WEAPONS**

*Action Part of Record-Setting National Fugitive Apprehension Strategy*

HOUSTON- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced that one of its Detention and Removal Fugitive Operations (DRO) Teams apprehended Emiliano LUGO, a Mexican national and fugitive at his residence in Conroe, Texas on November 22. Emiliano LUGO had been ordered deported from the United States by an immigration judge when he failed to appear before the court on March 22.

When the ICE team arrived, LUGO attempted to flee from his mobile home by climbing out a window near the back of the trailer where ICE agents apprehended him. After a consensual search of the property, ICE agents discovered 19 weapons. These weapons included nine-long arm rifles, a Browning .380 caliber handgun, a Colt Model 1911 .45, a TEC-9 9 mm handgun and other semi automatic weapons.

Inside the mobile home were three small children playing within reach of the location where some of the loaded weapons were seized. The ages of the small children range between 3 to 5 years.

“I am astounded by the callous disregard for the children in this home – they were playing just feet from loaded weapons,” said Charles Arendale, DRO Houston Field Office Director. “A fugitive with this amount of illegal firepower is a true threat to our community and to our agents. We’re quite pleased to take another dangerous person off this community’s streets.”

ICE records indicate that Emiliano LUGO entered the United States illegally near Brownsville in 1992. He tried adjusting his immigration status through a fraudulent marriage but his petitions were denied.

This case has been referred to the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) for further action.

ICE recently announced record numbers for national immigration enforcement, having removed 157,281 aliens in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 which ended September 30. Nearly 53 percent of those removed were criminal aliens - that is, aliens who are eligible for removal based upon a criminal conviction in the United States.

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ICE also noted significant gains by its National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP), which apprehends and deports fugitive aliens, or individuals ordered deported from the United States but who fail to report for removal. From March 1-Sept. 30, 2003, when ICE began tracking fugitive apprehensions, DRO apprehended 3,409 fugitives with final orders of removal. By comparison, in the same seven-month period of FY04, DRO apprehended 7,239 fugitives with final orders of removal, an increase of 112 percent over the FY03 period. Total FY04 apprehensions of fugitives were 11,063.

Locally, Houston criminal removals climbed in FY04 to 4,828, an increase of five percent from the previous fiscal year.

#ICE#

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*